

By the Upper House of Assembly

U. H. J.

p. 13

Oct^r the 19th 1722

Gentlemen. On reading your Message of yesterday by M^r Tyler and seven others, and the Reasons referr'd to in your former message relating to the Bill for Encouragem^t of Tillage &c. We are still of opinion that Officers ought not to be comprehended within that Law, for that their Circumstances are very different from other Creditors

1. In Regard that the Fees of the Secretary, Commissary &c. become due in all Parts of this Province, and many of them in very small Parcels, so that should they be paid in the Commodities mentioned in this Bill, no Persons would take the Trouble to Collect them, if they might have them for their Pains.

2. Officers are obliged to Credit all Persons who apply to them, and have not the Liberty of Choosing who they will Credit, and whereas other Creditors have, and

3. When such fees are received in small Parcels as many of them must necessarily be, the Officers had better let them lye and perish (which they would in a short Time) than be at the Expence of fetching them

And we further observe that the Sherriffs of the several Counties who have the Collecting of Officers Fees, if they should be oblig'd to take the a^d Commodities, would be thereby disabled from making up Hogsheads of Tobacco and be obliged to receive great part of their Tobacco in parcels, which would ruin them and very much prejudice the publick Credit.

And we cannot think it would be any Advantage to the poorer sort of People, who seldom have more of those Commodities than will supply their family Occasions, but would rather give advantage to some dishonest Persons to divest themselves of the Species they are sued for and procure those Commodities purely to disappoint and perplex their Creditors, Besides the Fees of the several offices are already so reduc'd that they are scarce sufficient to support the Officers; & We cannot but think it for the honour of our Country that they should be handsomely supported in their several Stations, For which reasons and many more that might be alledg'd We cannot consent that the Bill should pass.

Signed p order Sam^l Skippon Cl. Up. ho.

Which Answer is sent to the Lower house by Col Ward James Bowles Esq^r and John Rousby Esq^r who return & say p. 14 they delivered it